

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL**

**Regular Meeting: May 10, 2018**

Item Number: **013**

**Economic Development Department**

Authorize negotiation and execution of design and commission agreements with Ion Art Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$87,000 for artwork for the 8th Street Streetscape Project.

**District(s) Affected:** District 9

<b>Lead Department</b>	Economic Development
<b>Fiscal Note</b>	This item has no fiscal impact.
<b>Prior Council Action</b>	March 24 2013 - Council authorized a contract with the artist team of Stan Pipkin and Barna Kantor on October 24, 2013 (Item 9).
<b>For More Information</b>	Rebecca Giello, Economic Development Department 512-974-3045; Susan Lambe, Art in Public Places Program 512-974-7852
<b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action</b>	On September 9, 2013, the Art in Public Places Panel unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the 8 <sup>th</sup> St. Streetscape AIPP project, naming the selected artist team and Ion Art Inc. as the alternate. (5-0-0, Panel Members Little and Thompson absent)  The Austin Arts Commission approved the Selection Process recommendation on September 16, 2013 (5-1-0, Commissioner Auerbach opposed).

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### **Additional Backup Information:**

Art in Public Places (AIPP), of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department proposes to enter into an agreement with Ion Art Inc. to fabricate and install artwork for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape Project for \$87,000. The original artist team's contract was terminated on March 22, 2018. Ion Art Inc. is the selected alternate artist.

On May 29, 2013, AIPP issued a request for qualifications to professional visual artists and artist teams who live and work in the Austin metropolitan area to include Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Hays counties. The selection panel reviewed the 32 eligible applications and unanimously recommended Stan Pipkin and Barna Kantor as the selected artist team and Ion Art Inc. as the alternate.

On September 9, 2013, the AIPP Panel approved the selection process recommendation (5-0-0, Panel Members Little and Thompson absent)

The Austin Arts Commission approved the Panel's recommendation on September 16, 2013 (5-1, Auerbach opposed. Commissioner Tinnon absent.)

Staff recommends contracting with alternate artist Ion Art Inc. as soon as possible as the sponsor project is complete. Ion Art Inc. will be contracted to create artwork for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape Project that

- § is visually engaging but in no way impedes the safety of drivers, bikers, pedestrians and residents of this 7-block streetscape;
- § strengthens the identity of this 7-block corridor;
- § is durable enough to hold up to the rigors of streetscape conditions;
- § contributes to a local, regional and national contemporary art dialogue; and
- § enriches or adds to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

### **SELECTION PANEL**

Melissa Barry, Planner; Arts & Parks Director, Downtown Austin Alliance

Leah Davis, AIA, Andersson Wise Architects

Gary Webernich, Artist, Chair of Austin Community College Art Department

### **ADVISORS**

Chad Cramer, City of Austin Public Works Department Bicycle Program

Richard Duane, City of Austin Public Works Department

Blair Fox, Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) representative

Hollis Hammonds, Art in Public Places Panel Member

Meredith Powell, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA) representative

Humberto Rey, City of Austin Great Streets Program,

Heidi Tse, City of Austin Library Department

**Ion Art Inc.** was founded by husband and wife team Greg and Sharon Keshishian in 1986, with the intent of creating and selling art. Since then, their scope of work has increased dramatically yet creating art is still the core of their practice. Ion Art, Inc. is comprised of a team of talented individuals who take great pride in their work. Ion Art has had a hand in shaping the unique identity of Austin by creating some of its most familiar landmarks and would bring that authenticity to this project.